

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 SS-20 NSC-07

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9016

USIA WASHDC

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1654

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO, US, NATO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV MEDIA COVERAGE OF "DARK IMAGE"

--MEETING WITH FSFA SPOKESMAN ZUPAN

REF: BELGRADE 1611

1. DURING MEETING TODAY WITH MILAN ZUPAN, PARTICIPATED IN BY WARNER AND HOPKINS OF VOA PLUS PAO, QUESTION OF YUGOSLAV MEDIA COVERAGE OF YUGOSLA-ITALIAN BORDER DISPUTE AND NATO MANEUVER AROSE. PAO NOTED THAT US POSITION FINALLY PUBLICIZED, BUT EXPRESSED CHAGRIN THAT THIS SO LONG IN HAPPENING, GIVEN TIMELY US DIPLOMATIC ASSURANCES AND PRESS RELEASE.

2. ZUPAN REPLIED THAT, AS AMBASSADOR TOON ADVISED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DIZDAREVIC, IT WAS DIFFICUTL FOR YUGOSLAVS TO UNDERSTAND WHY MANEUVER COULD NOT BE POSTPONED, GIVEN UNFORTUNATE TIMING. MOREOVER, RESTATEMENT WORDING OF LONDON MEMORANDUM, WHICH ALL RIGHT IN 1954, WAS NOT ADEQUATE IN CURRENT SITUATION, GIVEN UNCERTAINTY RE WHAT PHRASE "UNDER ADMINISTRATION" IMPLIED.

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3. PAO OBSERVED THAT AS STATED, MANEUVER THAT LONG IN PLANNING NOT EASILY POSTPONED. WENT ON TO EXPRESS REGRET THAT MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO "COOL RHETORIC", WHICH ALREADY HAVING POSITIVE RESULTS, WAS DEPARTED FROM IN ACCUSATIONS DIRECTED AT US DURING BORDER DISPUTE.

4. ZUPAN EXPLAINED YUGOSLAV REACTION DURING CURRENT DISPUTE BY NOTING MANY TIMES IN PAST WHEN YUGOSLAV TERRITORY HAD BEEN OCCUPIED AND PARTITIONED. THUS, HE SAID, YUGOSLAVS REACT "STRONGLY AND IMMEDIATELY" WHEN THEIR TERRITORY THREATENED. OTHER NEIGHBORS, HE NOTED, HAVE CLAIMS ON OUR TERRITORY AND MIGHT WANT TO TAKE "BIGGER PIECES" OF IT. ZONE B SITUATION WAS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF BULGARIAN CLAIMS ON MACEDONIA, HE SAID. SO FAR AS YUGOSLAVS WAS CONCERNED, ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER ZONE B WAS FIXED BY LONDON MEMORANDUM AND WAS FINAL. QUERIED AS TO HOW DISPUTE MIGHT BE RESOLVED, HE STATED OPINION THAT IS WAS "BILATERAL AFFAIR" TO BE SETTLED BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY. SIGNATURE BY ITALY OF POSSIBLE CSCE AGREEMENT RATIFYING POST-WWII BORDERS OF EUROPE WOULD NOT HELP IN HIS OPINION DUE TO ITALIAN APPROACH THAT ZONE B HAD "DEMARCATION LINES" NOT "BORDERS". RE TIMING POSTING OF CONTROVERSIAL BORDER SIGNS, HE WAS TYPICALLY VAGUE.

5. FINALLY, HE REJECTED FOREIGN PRESS SPECULATION THAT YUGOSLAVIA WAS USING ISSUE TO RALLY PEOPLE AROUND PARTY AT ELECTION TIME OR TO FORCE IT TO BE CONSIDERED IN CSCE FORUM. RATHER IT RESULTED IN HIS OPINION FROM "SURPRISING ITALIAN STAND" ON ISSUE TAKEN IN ITS NOTES.
TOON

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